City Council.

At the adjourned meeting of the Council the 2d instant all the members present except Mr. Bell—President Berkeley in the chair.

The United States Express Company claims exemption under the Inter-States law from City taxation. The matter has been before the Council for same time. The finance committee made a report adhering to the annual tax as levied under the Ordinance of $175 for the past, and $100 for the current year. The report was adopted.

The assessment of $33.60 on the property of Mr. H. M. McIlhany's lot, East Beverly street for a new sewer was reduced to $11.75. He constructed a sewer several years ago at his own expense and has no use for the one recently put down by the city.

Mr. Crimmens from the committee on the Fire department, presented the report of the Chief Thomas Kivlighan (which was printed in the SPECTATOR last week) and some of its recommendations were approved. That of substituting hose-wagons for the carriages now in use was not. The more important, which secures additional fire plugs, is one of the approved.

The Board of Health recommends the placing of a sewer from Green street down the Valley in the middle of several blocks, thus affording under-drainage to the lots in those blocks fronting on Beverly and Frederick streets.

Mr. Tams, from the committee on Public grounds and buildings, made an adverse report on the proposition of Mr. M. F. Peterfish to purchase the Old Reservoir lot. He pointed out the future necessities of the City in the water-supply and said it would not be good policy to part with any of the water-supply resources, nor with the distributing point at the Old Reservoir.

The report was agreed to.

Mr. Butts explained that the Legislature at its recent session changed some of the details of collecting taxes which required amendments to the Ordinance governing the same. He presented such an amended ordinance, which was read and adopted under suspension of the rules.

The various purposes to which the telegraph poles standing can be made available, which previously was objected to in part by the corporation placing them on the streets, had been a matter of conference. Mr. McQuaide reported a plan agreed upon satisfactory to all parties, and the same was approved, so there will be no jar in the future.

Mr. McQuaide, from the committee on streets, presented a communication from the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad company asking for compliance by the city of the payment o $200, the city's portion of the cost of erecting the foot-bridge. The payment of the same was ordered.

Resolutions of enquiry by Mr. Crowle for the better and more economical heating of the City-Hall building, and by Mr. Scheffer for the reduction of taxes on water-moters were referred.

An ordinance for protecting and making regulations governing the Park grounds was reported by Mr. Tams. There being immediate necessity for this ordinance, the rules were suspended, and the same was unanimously adopted. A policeman will be on duty there.

Messrs. Ed. Burke and Alex. Harman, each of whom now furnishes a horse and driver for the hose-carriages, communicated to the council that the compensation $75.20 in each case was not sufficient. The consideration of the same brought up the present mode of horse and cart service for the city, as well as horses and drivers for the fire-hose carriages. The present plan of hiring horses and carts for all the work required is expensive, and the service not full and regular, especially in the removal of garbage. Mr. Tams submitted a motion of enquiry which was referred for early report.

Mr. Armentrout, who had been instructed to communicate with the owner of the lot at the corner of Frederick and Lewis street, with the view of its purchase by the City for a court-house, market-house, etc., stated that he had been carrying the option for several months, and he now desired the question of its purchase settled. He, therefore, offered a resolution that it be taken at a cost not to exceed $7,000. The whole question, he said, had been fully discussed, and he moved a suspension of the rules with the view of bringing the resolution upon its passage. The rules were suspended, and the vote stood, ayes 8, noes 3; lost, because 9 votes are necessary for the appropriation of sums over a certain amount and without consideration under the rules. If the proposition had taken the course of lying over under the rules, 7 votes would have secured its passage.

There was much routine business disposed of.

Among the petitions were several of property-holders assigning various reasons why they should not be required to connect their premises with the sewerage available for that purpose. The cases presented asked the Council to interfere between them and the City ordinance; but to arrest the order might endanger the health not only of the owners, but of others in the vicinity, and in the discussion other considerations were presented. The Board of Health of its own powers, and in connection with the Council Committee on health were desired to consider these cases without delay. Mr. Scheffer, a new member and chairman of the committee on health, made enquiries in reference to the details of the work required of his committee, and stated that the cases should receive immediate attention.